

What is claimed is:

1. A device for detecting the speed of an endless torque-transmitting means of a continuously variable transmission that includes two conical pulley pairs rotatably carried on spaced parallel axes and around which the endless torque-transmitting means passes, wherein the axial spacing between respective conical disks defining the pulley pairs can be changed inversely so that the endless torque-transmitting means moves independently between each transmission ratio and is in frictional engagement with the conical surfaces of the conical disks, said device comprising a sensor for detecting the speed of the endless torque-transmitting means and located at a position relative to the path of movement of the endless torque-transmitting means that is independent of the rotational speed relationship of the conical pulley pairs.

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the sensor is carried on a guide bar that guides a slack strand of the endless torque-transmitting means and that can pivot about an axis that is parallel to the axes of the conical pulley pairs.

3. A device according to claim 2, wherein the guide bar is carried on a fixed support positioned between the conical pulley pairs.

4. A device according to claim 1, wherein the endless torque-transmitting means is a plate-link chain that includes pins that interconnect adjacent chain links, and the sensor detects pins as they pass the sensor.

5. A device according to claim 4, wherein the sensor is a proximity sensor that detects end faces of the pins.

6. A device according to claim 4, wherein the sensor is connected to a control unit within which plate-link chain structural data are stored, and which determines the speed of the plate-link chain based upon the number of detected pins and time intervals between pin detections.

7. A device according to claim 6, wherein the stored plate-link structural data include the number of pins carried by the plate-link chain and the spacing between pins.

8. A device according to claim 6, wherein the plate-link chain has different pin spacings and wherein at least one of the different pin spacings and at least a number of successive pin spacings are stored in the control unit, and wherein the control unit determines the speed of the plate-link chain after receiving detected successive pin spacings.

9. A device according to claim 2, wherein the fixed support is an oil pipe.

10. A device according to claim 2, wherein the guide bar is displaceable in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the movement direction of the endless torque-transmitting means.

11. A device according to claim 2, wherein the pivot axis of the guide bar is positioned between the pulley axes and is within a loop defined by the endless torque-transmitting means.

12. A device according to claim 4, wherein end faces of the pins are in frictional engagement with the conical surfaces of the conical disks.